

Washington Learns

Report: Legislative action related to Washington Learns Interim Report Recommendations

Washington Learns Recommendation	Related 2006 legislative accomplishments
1. Support a public-private partnership focused on public engagement and quality improvement.	(Not a legislative item.) The <i>Thrive by Five Partnership</i> members from business, philanthropy and the public sectors are committed to making Washington our nation's leader in early education. The partnership's founding members include: Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, The Boeing Company, Social Venture Partners, Kirlin Charitable Foundation, Talaris Research Institute, The Ginger and Barry Ackerley Foundation, Lockheed Martin, Clear Channel Radio Seattle, Foundation for Early Learning and the state of Washington.
2. Create a cabinet level department of early learning with a director appointed by the Governor.	Legislation passed (HB 2964, Rep. Kagi) creating the cabinet-level Department of Early Learning. Consolidates more than a half-dozen child care and early learning programs, a critical first step toward an early learning system that is efficient and supports parents and communities to make sure every child is ready to succeed in school and life. The agency will be the focal point in working with the private sector to coordinate investments and improve coordination between early learning and K-12. <i>\$1.5 million</i>
3. Implement a voluntary Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS) with incentives and Tiered Reimbursement (TR).	(Not a legislative item.) The Early Learning Council is refining the QRIS design. The Thrive by Five Partnership will pilot the QRIS and TR in their two demonstration sites.
4. Invest in intensive, focused academic support for high school students who need extra help to meet the state's academic requirements in reading, writing and mathematics, and provide schools and classroom teachers with additional resources specifically for this purpose.	A new program is created to help students who have been unsuccessful in meeting standards on the 10 th grade WASL. School districts will offer intensive instruction in ways that best fit local needs, including summer school, classes before or after school and on Saturdays, skill seminars, test preparation and tutoring. Activities will occur on school campuses, at other locations and times that meet student needs, or via the Internet. <i>\$28.5 million</i> New mathematics-learning materials will be developed to help struggling students gain necessary math skills. Students will be able to focus on one "bite" at a time to meet the math standard for high school graduation. New math tutorials will also be developed and offered on the Internet. <i>\$3.4 million</i>

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5. All secondary school (grades 6 through 12) students shall participate in a program that is integrated into the curriculum and provides an adult mentor for each student.	Legislation passed (SB 6255, Sen. Eide) Through a program called "Navigation 101," adult guidance, mentoring and other activities will be used to help students plan and prepare for what they will do after high school. Students will set goals and take courses that reflect their skills and interests and future plans. <i>\$4 million</i>
6. In addition to other assessment opportunities, all high school students shall have the opportunity, during 10 th or 11 th grade, to assess whether they are on-track to be college-ready.	Proposal discussed but not enacted this session.
7. The State Board of Education shall include indicators of program effectiveness and student outcomes in the development of their school accountability matrix.	(Not a legislative item.) Recommendation has been forwarded to the State Board of Education.
8. An additional career pathway shall be developed to create pre-apprenticeship programs for high school students that lead to an apprenticeship after graduation.	Legislation passed (HB 2789, Rep. Quall) Up to 10 school districts will be able to qualify for "Running Start" grants of \$10,000 each to support programs that provide interested students the opportunity to prepare for work in the building trades and crafts. In addition, funding is provided for pilot programs. <i>\$175,000</i>
9. The Transitions Mathematics Project shall continue its public-private partnership by developing course frameworks, curricular materials, and assessments aligned with the Readiness Standards for Mathematics.	Support is provided to provide outreach and instructional materials to high school and college partnerships to help students realize mathematics expectations and to improve the math placement testing process at Washington's colleges and universities. <i>\$275,000</i>
10. Support the development of a robust longitudinal student data system that will track student data and student academic achievement and ease transitions from early learning to K-12 to post-secondary, and among post-secondary providers.	Support is provided to develop a longitudinal student data system to provide student and program information that will be used to measure effectiveness of education services. The State Information Services Board will oversee the project to ensure the funding is well spent and the project stays on track. <i>\$2.9 million</i>